

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MARTIN 00182 071859Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EURE-00 /117 W

----- 063947

P R 071505Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1553

INFO COMCARIBSEAFRON UNN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0182

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,FW, FG

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: FIRST ROUND BALLOTING

REF: A-19 OF 4/19/74

1. SUMMARY.

RESULTS FIRST-ROUND BALLOTING FOR FRENCH PRESIDENCY IN OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS (DOMS) FOUND MARTINIQUE VOTING CHABAN 48 PER CENT, MITTERAND 35 PER CENT, GISCARD 14 PER CENT. GUADELOUPE WENT MITTERAND 51 PER CENT, CHABAN 30 PER CENT, GISCARD 16 PER CENT. GUYANE (FRENCH GUIANA) SUPPORTED MITTERAND 43 PER CENT, CHABAN 37 PER CENT, GISCARD 17 PER CENT. UNLIKE METROPOLITAN FRANCE, ONLY HALF OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS CAST THEIR BALLOTS. KEY FACTOR FOR DOMS WAS (AND IS) QUESTION THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE. THIS LARGELY EXPLAINS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VOTING PATTERN IN DOMS AND THAT IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE.

2. FACT THAT COMMON PROGRAM OF LEFT TREATED DOMS IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY SECTION AND PROMISED "SELF-DETERMINATION" WHICH WOULD LEAD TO DOMS BEING SET UP AS NEW COLLECTIVITIES WAS GENERALLY BLAMED FOR RELATIVELY POOR SHOWING OF LEFTIST CANDIDATES

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MARTIN 00182 071859Z

IN MARCH 1973 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS (A-20 OF 3/26/73). IN ADDITION

TO SENTIMENTAL TIES TO FRANCE, INHABITANTS DOMS FEAR LOSS FRENCH SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND OTHER FINANCIAL AID. LOCAL CAMPAIGNING CENTERED AROUND CONTINUED VALIDITY- OR LACK THEREOF- THIS ASPECT COMMON PROGRAM.

(A) AS LONG AGO AS DECEMBER 2, MITTERAND HAD PUBLISHED ARTICLE IN L UNITE WHICH EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION THIS PORTION COMMON PROGRAM. IN CAMPAIGN MESSAGE TO INHABITANTS DOMS MITTERAND PROCLAIMED THAT THEY ALONE WERE QUALIFIED PRONOUNCE ON THEIR FUTURE AND THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION FORCING THEM TO CHANGE THEIR STATUS. GASTON DEFFERRE WHOM MITTERAND SENT TO FRENCH WEST INDIES TO SUPPORT HIS CANDIDACY, PROCLAIMED THAT THIS SECTION OF COMMON PROGRAM WAS BADLY DRAFTED, THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLIES IN NEAR FUTURE, AND THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF FRANCE ABANDONING DOMS.

(B) AT CONGRESS OF LEFT-WING RADICALS ROBERT FABRE LIKEWISE PROMISED THAT DOMS WOULD REMAIN WITHIN FRENCH BODY POLITIC.

(C) COMMUNIST PARTY, HOWEVER, REFUSED PUBLICLY TO MODIFY ITS POSITION. JUST BEFORE FIRST-ROUND BALLOTING GEORGES MARCHAIS SENT MESSAGE TO FRENCH WEST INDIES. IT INDICATE NO SOFTENING THOSE PORTIONS OF COMMON PROGRAM WHICH HAD PROVED COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN DOMS, IN FACT, HE INSISTED THAT THEY REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR ENTIRE UNITED LEFT NOT JUST FOR COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. MARTINIQUE:

(A) OBVIOUSLY COMMUNIST AND PPM PARTIES WERE UNABLE CONVINCE POLITICALLY UNCOMMITTED THAT VOTE FOR MITTERAND WAS NOT A VOTE AGAINST CONTINUATION FRENCH TIES, PERCENTAGE OF VOTES FOR MITTERAND (35) CLOSELY PARALLELS COMMUNIST AND PPM HARD-CORE ELECTORATE.

(B) POWERFUL LOCAL WING GAULLIST PARTY WORKED HARD AND SUCCESSFULLY (48 PER CENT) FOR CHABAN.

(C) INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS (IRS) DO NOT EXIST AS ORGANIZED FORCE ANYWHERE IN DOMS. AD HOC COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE OVERCOME THIS ORGANIZATIONAL HANDICAP AND GISCARD ONLY RECEIVED 14 PER CENT OF VOTES CAST.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MARTIN 00182 071859Z

4. GUADELOUPE:

(A) IMPORTANT MSG PARTY SPLIT OVER ISSUE WHETHER TO ACCEPT MITTERAND'S ASSURANCES RE POLITICAL FUTURE DOMS AT FACE VALUE. MOST PARTY MEMBERS APPARENTLY DID NOT, FOR MITTERAND'S PERCENTAGE (51) WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN HARD-CORE COMMUNIST VOTE.

(B) GAULLIST PARTY IN GUADELOUPE MUCH WEAKER THAN IN MARTINIQUE AND IRS DO NOT EXIST AS ORGANIZED FORCE. THOSE SUPPORTING CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS QUO IN GUADELOUPE OBVIOUSLY PREFERRED REMAIN WITH GUALLIST THEY KNOW (CHABAN 30 PER CENT) THAN IRS THEY DO NOT (GISCARD 16 PER CENT).

5. GUYANE:

POLITICAL PARTIES AS SUCH HARDLY EXIST IN GUYANE AND NEWS OF LOCAL CAMPAIGNING HAS HARDLY REACHED MARTINIQUE. HENCE CONCLUSIONS MUST BE VERY TENTATIVE. HOWEVER, HERE TOO SUPPORTERS OF STATUS QUO OBVIOUSLY PREFERRED REMAIN WITH GAULLIST THEY KNOW (CHABAN 37 PER CENT) RATHER THAN IR THEY DO NOT (GISCARD 17 PER CENT). MITTERAND'S 43 PER CENT OF POPULAR VOTE PRESUMABLY REFLECTS CONTINUING STRENGTH OF PRO -AUTONOMY FORCES.
REMOLE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY SCHISMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MARTIN00182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740110-0531
From: MARTINIQUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740569/aaaacjfb.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A-19 OF 4/19/74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 OCT 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Oct-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: FIRST ROUND BALLOTING
TAGS: PINT, FW, FG, FR, (MITTERAND), (CHABAN), (GISCARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005